

House Resolution 1175

By: Representatives Amerson of the 9th, Stephens of the 164th, Houston of the 170th, Greene of the 149th, and Crawford of the 127th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Georgia's state owned resorts and restaurants which serve wine to list the fine wines
2 grown and produced by Georgia's licensed vineyards and wineries; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is fast becoming a prominent winegrowing region, with the addition
4 of several new vineyards and wineries in the last five years and more in the planning stages;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia boasts the perfect terrain for the cultivation of European vinifera as
7 well as hybrid and native American wine grapes; and

8 WHEREAS, these farm wineries have formed several nonprofit organizations such as the
9 Winegrowers Association of Georgia, The Georgia Wine Council, and The Georgia
10 Muscadine Association and are attracting visitors from all over Georgia and neighboring
11 states along the Georgia Wine Highway, recently designated by the state Department of
12 Transportation; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia wines have won hundreds of awards and medals in national and
14 international competitions, and the vineyards have attracted the attention of local and national
15 media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, CNN, Turner South,
16 *Southern Living*, *Georgia Trend*, *Points North*, *Northeast Georgia Living*, and *Macon*
17 *magazines*, *Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles* and other state and regional publications; and

18 WHEREAS, the States of Virginia and North and South Carolina are officially promoting
19 their winegrowing industries, and the Georgia Economic Development Council has also
20 shown interest in promoting Georgia viticulture and wines along with local convention and
21 visitors bureaus, civic organizations, and private entities who are sponsoring annual wine
22 festivals; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia wines are now featured in top restaurants, gourmet shops, and beverage
2 stores across the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia wine industry represents an example of agritourism at its best by
4 creating jobs in the agricultural, manufacturing, hospitality, and retail sectors of local
5 economies, thereby making a considerable contribution to local government tax bases where
6 tourism is a vital part of the economy.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body request that the state Department of Economic Development and
9 the state Department of Natural Resources, which oversees many state owned resorts that
10 serve wine, including Smithgall Woods, Blackshear Resort, Unicoi State Park Lodge, Little
11 Ocmulgee Lodge, Redtop Mountain Lodge, and George T. Bagby Lodge, direct such
12 facilities to work with all of Georgia's licensed vineyards and wineries to assure that their
13 guests have a choice of Georgia wines among other wines they offer visitors.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the appropriate state
16 officials in the above-mentioned departments as well as to the managers of resorts and
17 restaurants and to independent state authorities such as the Jekyll Island—State Park
18 Authority which manage similar state owned facilities.